

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 10, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment claim 22 is added so that claims 17-22 are now pending.

Claim 17, the sole pending independent claim has been amended to describe the invention more specifically. The amended claim 17 is supported throughout the original specification, particularly in the description beginning at page 10, line 20 through page 20, line 11. The other claims have been amended to conform to the changes made in claim 17. In addition, new claim 22 is supported by the disclosure in the patent application at page 13, lines 5-9.

Claims 17-19 were rejected as unpatentable over Pauly et al. (U.S. Patent 4,958,280, hereinafter Pauly) in view of Fay (U.S. Patent 5,983,201). This rejection is respectfully traversed as to claim 17 that is presented here.

Applicants note the Examiner's comparison of Pauly and Fay to the limitations of former claim 17 in the Office Action. This comparison appears at pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Assuming, solely for the purposes of this response, that the comparison between former claim 17 and Pauly and Fay is correct, the comparison and rejection cannot be maintained with respect to amended claim 17.

Amended claim 17 describes a method employing portable recording media that are used to record data and registration numbers for particular contact lens customers. That information recorded on the medium for a particular contact lens customer includes information for exchanging contact lenses based upon the date of issuance of the contact lenses and the characteristics of the contact lenses that have been issued. That information provides a basis for notifying the contact lens customer to exchange the lenses, an important safety consideration.

In amended claim 17, it is expressly stated that each of the respective second group information processing apparatus is installed at a respective contact lens prescriber. All of these second group information processing apparatus communicate with the first group information processing apparatus, an apparatus is related to a contact lens seller. Thus, by employing the recording medium, a particular contact lens customer can change between contact lens prescribers readily, without the assistance of the prescribers. The same contact lens seller can be employed by the contact lens customer regardless of the prescriber because of the intercommunication of the first and second group information processing apparatus.

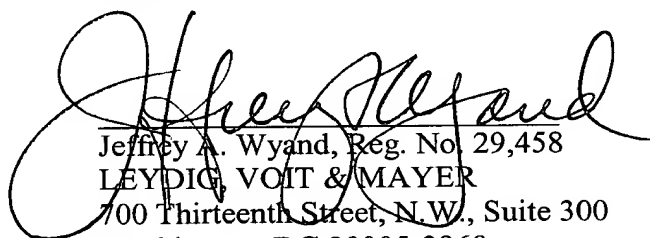
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Neither Pauly nor Fay provides these important features or advantages of the invention as defined by amended claim 17. Therefore, that claim and its dependent claims 18-22, should now be allowed over those references.

Claim 20 was rejected based upon the combination of Pauly and Fay and further in view of a non-patent publication. However, this rejection is founded upon the assertion that claim 17 is obvious in view of Pauly and Fay, a position that cannot be properly maintained as to amended claim 7, for the reasons already explained.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment or ROA - Regular (Revised 9/03/03)